



The Michigan Heart Gallery

Planning for the 2009 Michigan Heart Gallery has begun!

The Michigan Heart Gallery is a photographic exhibit of Michigan children who are in the foster care system and waiting for an adoptive family. The children featured are MARE kids representing all regions of Michigan. These children represent all children who are waiting for a permanent family. This exhibit receives much media exposure as it travels all over the state.

OUR GOAL IS TO FEATURE 100 CHILDREN IN THE 2009 HEART GALLERY!

Any child that is registered with MARE is eligible OR any child available for adoption that fits the following criteria:

- Special needs
- Over the age of 10 with no identified family interested in adopting the child
- Sibling group

Participating in the Heart Gallery must be a decision made in the best interests of the child. Please discuss this opportunity with the children in your caseload that you would like to feature in the gallery. Please read the following expectations and timeline, **complete the 2009 Registration/Consent Form, and return it to the MARE Office anytime between now and October 1, 2008.** ATTN: Regina Funkhouser FAX #: (517) 783-5904.

Space is limited. Please respond at your earliest convenience.

Worker Expectations

1. Discuss the Heart Gallery with the child prior to scheduling a photo shoot.

Not all children are right for this kind of recruitment and no child should be involved against his or her will. Explain that a professional photographer (who may even have experience photographing celebrities!) will take his/her photograph, which will be on display as part of an art exhibit in various public venues across the state, including museums and malls, in order to find families for the child and other children like them. Make sure that the child is aware of and agreeable to adoption (to the best of his/her understanding). Let them know that this project may also receive some media attention.

2. Provide information about the child's likes, interests, and hobbies.

This is so the child's true personality can be captured on film and a narrative can be written about the child. ****Have the child complete the Heart Gallery- What I Want Others to Know About Me form and return it along with the Heart Gallery Registration/Consent form before October 1, 2008. ****

3. Schedule the photo shoot immediately!

Once MARE provides photographer information to you, promptly contact the photographer to schedule a date and location for the photo shoot. You and the photographer should decide upon the location. Possible photo shoot locations include: the child's foster home, agency grounds, local parks, or the photographer's studio. Please respond in a timely manner to any contact from Heart Gallery volunteer photographers or coordinators.

****The photo shoot must be completed by December 15.**

4. Arrange for transportation and supervision for the child on the day of the scheduled photo shoot.

You, foster parents, foster care caseworkers, or another adult with whom the child is comfortable must provide supervision. Please ensure that the child dresses appropriately, arrives to the photo shoot prior to the scheduled time, and is supervised for the duration of the shoot. If you, as the child's adoption worker, will not be supervising/arranging the photo shoot, please make sure that the appointed adult understands his/her responsibilities and timelines and signs the registration form.

5. Attend the Heart Gallery debut or other related events with the child.

If possible, bring the child to the debut of the Heart Gallery. Grand openings will occur in mid-February and early March in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Detroit.

6. Follow up by responding in a timely manner to any families who show an interest in adopting the child as a result of the Heart Gallery to the best of your ability.

For more information, please contact MARE. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Regina Funkhouser
Michigan Heart Gallery Coordinator

2009 Heart Gallery Timeline

Now – October 1, 2008	Return Child Registration/Consent Form and What I Want Others to Know Form to Regina Funkhouser at MARE, Fax #: 517-783-5904
September 15 – December 1	Photographers will be matched with children and photo shoots will begin to be scheduled
December 15, 2008	All photo shoots will be completed
FEBRUARY 12, 2009	MICHIGAN HEART GALLERY DEBUTS!



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2009 Registration/Consent Form

Child's Full Name: _____ MARE #: _____

City where child currently resides: _____ Foster Home
 Residential

Agency: _____

Child's Worker: _____
(print)

Wkr. Phone: _____ Wkr. Email: _____

I, _____, hereby grant the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange and the Michigan Heart Gallery permission to feature _____ in the 2009 Michigan Heart Gallery. The photograph taken for the MI Heart Gallery may be used for any additional adoption recruitment activities, as well as for publicity and promotional materials associated with MARE or the Heart Gallery.

I also agree to comply with the Heart Gallery Guidelines and timeline as outlined on page 1. I agree to prepare the children, provide information, and make photo shoot arrangements, including transportation and supervision, in a timely manner once the photographer information is provided to me.

Worker Signature: _____

We will need children who are willing and able to be interviewed by the media (tv, radio, newspaper) and/or speak at special events about their Heart Gallery experience. This child **WOULD/WOULD NOT** be a good candidate. **(circle one)**

****Please fill out this portion of the form if you are appointing someone else to schedule/supervise the photo shoot. Foster parents, foster care workers, or workers at residential treatment centers would be appropriate appointees. Please make sure they understand the expectations and timeline. They must sign this form.**

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Relationship to child: _____

I, _____, understand that I have been appointed by this child's adoption worker to arrange and supervise a photo shoot for the 2009 Michigan Heart Gallery. I understand the purpose and importance of this project and will comply with the timelines as outlined by the child's adoption worker.

Signature: _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM (one per child) TO REGINA FUNKHOUSER no later than
October 1, 2008.**

**Fax to: 517-783-5904 or Mail to: PO BOX 6128, Jackson, MI 49204
Questions? Call Regina at (517) 783-6273 ext. 277 or email regina@miheart.org**



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WHAT I WANT OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT ME!

Note to Workers: Please help the child complete this form and return it to Regina Funkhouser, Fax (517) 783-5904 or send to PO Box 6128, Jackson, MI 49204 by October 1, 2008.

Note to Kids: This information will be used to write a short story *ALL ABOUT YOU!* So, give us lots of details and if there is something you think is missing, feel free to write it on the back!

CHILD'S NAME/Nickname: _____

WORKER/AGENCY: _____

I would describe myself as:

If I had three wishes, I would wish:

1.

2.

3.

When I am not in school I like to:

A few of my favorite things are:

Three more neat things about me:

1.

2.

3.

I want to be adopted by a family who:

My idea for a cool photograph of me would be: